

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 211840

NODIS

FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT ADDIS ABABA 3668 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO MOGADISCIO &
NAIROBI DTD 21 AUG 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 3668

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SO, ET, US, KE, MASS, OCLR

SUBJECT: REPLY TO SOMALI AIDE MEMOIRE

REF: (A) STATE 211455, (B) STATE 210478 (C) ADDIS 2927

1. PROPOSED APPROACH APPEARS ON THE WHOLE EXTREMELY POSITIVE.

2. EMBASSY FINDS "AS LONG AS SOMALIA'S NEIGHBORS FEEL
THREATENED" IN PARA 2 SOMEWHAT AMBIGUOUS, PERHAPS INTEN-
TIONALLY SO, BUT FEELS CLARIFICATION, AT LEAST IN OUR OWN
MINDS, WOULD BE USEFUL. AS REPORTED SEVERAL TIMES

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PREVIOUSLY, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE PMGSE WILL EVER NOT
FEEL THREATENED AS LONG AS SIAD RULES IN MOGADISCIO. ALL
OFFICIALS, MODERATES AS WELL AS RADICALS, ARE ONE ON THAT
ISSUE: "THE SOMALI LEOPARD CANNOT CHANGE HIS SPOTS."
NEVERTHELESS, A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM SAID -- IF MADE
PUBLICLY AND TO ALL OAU STATES -- TO "RECOGNIZE THE
INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF ETHIOPIA S DRAWN" SHOULD BE

POSITIVELY RECEIVED IN ADDIS.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL NEAR-CRISIS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS CAUSED LAST MARCH OVER ABSENCE OF MENTION OF DJIBOUTI'S BOUNDARIES IN PRES. CARTER'S CALL FOR ASSURANCES FROM SIAD NOT TO "DISHONOR THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF EITHER KENYA OR ETHIOPIA." FOR THAT REASON, EMBASSY URGES THAT DJIBOUTI BE INCLUDED IN ANY REQUEST FOR ASSURANCES FROM SIAD IF WE ARE TO TRY TO ELICIT POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PMGSE. (AS DEPT HAS ALREADY NOTED, MERE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SOMALIS "HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIM AGAINST ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS" WOULD NOT WASH HERE AS PMGSE WOULD IMMEDIATELY POINT OUT GSDR DOES NOT CONSIDER OGADENIS AS NEIGHBORS BUT AS MEMBERS OF THE SOMALI FAMILY.)

4. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO BE AWARE THAT PMGSE HAS NOT YET SHOWN ANY INCLINATION TO DROP ANY OF ITS FIVE CONDITIONS FOR PEACE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: (A) SOMALIA MUST ABANDON ITS EXPANSIONIST POLICY; (B) SOMALIA MUST CHANGE ITS FLAG, CONSTITUTION, AND TERRITORIAL CLAIMS AS REVEALED ON ITS PUBLISHED MAP; (C) SOMALIA MUST RESPECT THE OAU AND UN CHARTERS; (D) SOMALIA MUST STOP ITS INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER AFRICAN STATES; AND (E) SOMALIA MUST PAY COMPENSATION FOR THE DAMAGES IT CAUSED IN ETHIOPIA. THESE DEMANDS WERE REPEATED PUBLICLY AS RECENTLY AS JULY 2 (REF C), AND ALTHOUGH EMBASSY HAD SUR-
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MISED EARLIER IN THE YEAR THAT SOME OF THEM WERE NEGOTIABLE (PARTICULARLY REPARATIONS), THERE IS NO NEW EVIDENCE TO CONFIRM THAT VIEW. REWRITING CONSTITUTION AND/OR CHANGING FLAG WOULD PROBABLY GO FURTHER TO ASSUAGE ETHIOPIANS THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE ACT OR ACTS, AND EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND/OR EMBASSY MOGADISCIO'S EVALUATION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS HAPPENING WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. CHAPIN UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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